

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

2010-2012 Biennial Budget Process Update for the KBE Audit/Budget Committee

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS Chapter 48

History/Background:

2010-2012 Biennial Budget Process Update:

This year's regular legislative session adjourned April 15, 2010, without passage of a budget bill.

The Governor plans to call a May 24 special legislative session to deal with the budget. Under a 2005 ruling of the Kentucky Supreme Court, the Governor will be forced to shut down important agencies of state government on July 1, 2010, if the General Assembly fails to pass a budget by then. Public education is a constitutional protected function but it is uncertain whether the Department of Education in its entirety falls under that function. Discussions are ongoing on this issue.

On May 12, 2010, Governor Beshear proposed a budget compromise between the House and Senate for which both sides expressed support. It calls for no new taxes but maintains spending priorities for education. The Governor said his plan would maintain the current level of 177 instructional days in the public schools and would include bonding for a limited number of construction projects.

At the time of preparation of this staff note, a final budget has not been passed for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010. Additional information will be provided at the June KBE meeting, if this occurs.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Sufficient funding for education programs is essential for all students to achieve academic proficiency.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

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